

VOLUME XXII.....NUMBER 78.

## Olga and Conner

**The Calico Dress.**  
"You were not here yesterday," said the gentle teacher of a little village school, as she placed her hand kindly on the curly head of one of her pupils. It was recess time.

but the little girl addressed had not gone to  
frank away the ten minutes, but even left her  
seat, but sat absorbed in what seemed a  
fruitless attempt to make herself mistress of  
a sum in long division.

Her face and neck crimsoned at the re-

"I remember there was a little girl who called herself Nelly Gray, came in yesterday, but I did not know she was your sister. But

"It was not because I didn't want to," was the earnest answer; and then she paused and the deep flush again tinged that fair brow. "But," she continued, after a moment of painful embarrassment, "another, a most painful

both of us consciously, and so we are going to take turns. I'm going to school one day and water the next, and at night she will teach me all that she learns while here. It's the only way we can think of getting along, and we want to study very much, so as to become teachers and school ourselves, and take care of our children.

With genuine delicacy Miss M— forebore to question the child further, but sat down beside her, and in a moment explained the rule over which she was puzzling her-

"You had better go out and take the air a moment, you have studied very hard to-day," said the teacher, as the little girl put aside her slate.

"I had rather not—I might fear my dress—  
I will stand by the window and watch the  
rest."

There was a peculiar tone in the voice of  
her father as he said, "*I might fear my dress,*"  
and Miss M—— was led instinctively to no-  
tice it. It was nothing but a manly sym-  
ptom of a doubting heart, and she would

front of a deep odor, but it was really pleasant and had never yet been washed. And while looking at it, she remembered that during the whole previous fortnight Mary Grey had attended school regularly, she had never seen her wear but that one dress. "She is a thoughtful girl," said she to herself, and does

The next morning Mary was absent, but her sister occupied her seat. There was something so interesting in these two little sisters, the one eleven and the other eighteen

month's younger, agreeing to attend school by term, that Mrs M—— could not forbear observing them very closely. They were pretty faced, of delicate forms and lily like hands and feet—the elder with dark, wondrous eyes and chestnut curls, the younger with

orals like the sky of June, her white neck veiled by a wreath of golden rimples. She observed in both the same close attention to their studies, and as Mary had turned in during play time so did Nellie, and upon speaking to her as she did to her sister, she re-

The reply caused Mrs. M—— to notice the quib of the wister. She saw at once that it was of the same piece as Mary's, and upon scrutinizing it very closely, she became certain that it was of the same piece. It did not

But that it was the same dress. It did not fit quite so prettily on Nelly, and was too long for her, too, and who was evidently all at ease when she noticed her teacher looking at the bright pink flowers that were so thickly set on the white ground.

interest a heart so truly benevolent as that which pulsated in the bosom of that village school teacher who ascertained the responsibility of their mother, and through sorrowful shortness of breath by a narrow pass, that same night, having found in the only store

Yvry bright and happy looked Mary Grey.

on Friday morning, as she entered the school at an early hour. She waited only to place her books in neat order in her desk, ere she approached Miss M—— and whispering in a low and confidential tone, "After this

"That is very good news," replied the teacher kindly. "Nelly is fond of her books I see, and I am happy to know that she can have an opportunity to study her books every day." "Thank you, your books need no

"O, yes, ma'arp, yes, ma'm, she can now. Something happened she didn't expect, and she is a girl to hang on come as she the to."

she was glad to have someone as she said, "I am so glad to do so." She hesitated a moment, but her young heart was filled to the brim with joy, and when a child is happy it is as natural to tell the cause as it is for a bird to warble when the sun shines. So out of the fullness of her heart she spoke and told her teacher

She and her sister were the only children of a very poor widow, whose health was so delicate that it was almost impossible to support herself and daughters. She was obliged to keep them out of school all winter, be-

cause they had no clothes to wear, but she told them that if they could earn enough by doing odd chores for the neighbors, to buy each of them a new dress, they might go in the spring. Very earnestly had the little girls improved their stray chances, and very

carefully hoarded the copper coins which usually repaid them. They had each nearly saved enough to buy a calico, when Nellie was taken sick; and as the mother had no money beforehand, her own treasure had to be expended for the purchase of medicine.

"O, I did feel so bad when school opened and Nelly could not go, because she had no dress," said Mary. "I told mother I would n't go either, but she said I had better, for I could teach sister at home some, and it would be better than no schooling. I stood it for a fortnight but Nelly's little face seemed all

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